Mint of the United States,
Philad.a Oct. 6. 1853.

Dear Sir,

I have duly considered your letter of this date and the correspondence relating thereto. The propriety or necessity for the appointment of an Assistant Melter and Refiner is somewhat changed since the date of your letter to Dr. Eckert, former Director, and his communications to the Treasury Department. It is expected that the Branch Mint at San Francisco will be in operation in February next and the Assay Office in New York at perhaps an earlier period. These institutions will greatly diminish the operations of your department, and it would not seem desirable to be advisable to increase the number of officers at this Mint. I may further add that such an appointment would not diminish your legal responsibility to the government in behalf of the facts that in the Mint accounts no notice could be taken of such subordinate officers; the Melter and Refiner being alone charged with the

precious metals placed in his Department.

I regret that I cannot accede to your request not only because I would gladly oblige you, but because I entertain for Mr Taylor great regard, and under other circumstances would be happy to serve him.

I am, very respectfully,
Your friend,

James Ross Snowden
Director

Prof. J. C. Booth
Melter & Refiner
Mint of the U. States.

Oct 6th 1853

Jas. Ross Snowden

Phila.

Examined

JC